

Dear Sirs:

We at Marquette General Hospital rely primarily on Centrex lines to serve our entire 300 bed hospital, including patient rooms, clinical departments and administrative offices. We do not have a PBX in our hospital, and instead rely on over 2000 Centrex lines to provide telephone service. The proposed change in Equivalency Ratio would have a significant adverse affect on the cost of our telephone service. Healthcare costs to the consumer have been increasing significantly in the past several years, but at the same time healthcare providers, particularly hospitals, have experienced decreasing reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurance companies. The decreasing revenue that we receive for the services we provide are making it more and more difficult for us to maintain our viability. Thus we are opposed to any increase in telephone costs, and are not in favor of the proposed change in Equivalency Ratio.

Brett Young
Director of Engineering and Maintenance
Marquette General Hospital